

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 00792 311221Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PER-01 SIG-01 A-01

MMO-01 EB-08 SCA-01 IO-13 INR-07 PM-04 CU-02

/065 W

-----311233Z 091747 /10

R 311100Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9119

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AMGT, GB

SUBJ: ANNUAL POLICY AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

FOR GABON: PARTS II AND III

REF: (A) STATE 38386 (B) LIBREVILLE 791

PART II - RESOURCE ASSESSMENTS

A. STATE

STATE RESOURCES WILL BE USED TO PURSUE COURSES
OF ACTION PROPOSED IN PART I IN MUCH SAMEWAY THEY ARE
CURRENTLY DEPLOYED. ALL FOUR SUBSTANTIVE STATE OFFICERS
ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES
WHICH RELATE DIRECTLY TO OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVES, WHILE
AMBASSADOR IN ADDITION HAS PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR
RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESIDENT BONGO. SUCCESSFUL PURSUIT
OF COURSES OF ACTION WILL ALSO REQUIRE CONTINUING SUPPORT
FROM DEPARTMENT IN OBTAINING NECESSARY COOPERATION OF
OTHER WASHINGTON AGENCIES (COMMERCE, EXIMBANK, DEFENSE,
PEACE CORPS, USIA).

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PAGE 02 LIBREV 00792 311221Z

ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTION OCCUPIES MAJORITY OF
POST PERSONNEL (NOTABLY NON-AMERICAN) AND FUNDING BUT
IS NOT ENGAGED DIRECTLY IN ANY OF COURSES OF ACTION
PROPOSED. HOWEVER, SERVICES PROVIDED DO NOT GO BEYOND
MINIMUM LEVEL REQUIRED TO SUSTAIN SUBSTANTIVE ACTIVITIES,
SO THERE IS NO SCOPE FOR REALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

DEVOTED TO ADMINISTRATION. INDEED, RECENT INSPECTION SHOWS NEED TO ALLOCATE ADDITIONAL FBO FUNDS TO IMPROVE STAFF HOUSING.

B. OTHER AGENCY PROGRAMS AND RESOURCE LEVELS

BOTH USIS AND PEACE CORPS HAVE OPPORTUNITY DURING FORECAST PERIOD FOR PROGRAM EXPANSION WHICH CAN CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR PRIORITY OBJECTIVES. USIS AND CU PROGRAMS ADDRESS DIRECTLY GABON'S SMALL DECISION-MAKING ELITE, HELPING TO DEVELOP AND STRENGTHEN AMERICAN-ORIENTED NUCLEUS WITHIN THIS GROUP AND THUS TO PROMOTE CLOSER BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. PC EFFORT OFFERS TANGIBLE PROOF OF USG INTEREST IN GABONESE DEVELOPMENT AND IN WELFARE OF GABONESE CITIZENS, THUS ALSO CONTRIBUTING TO MAINTENANCE OF FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE FOR PURSUIT OF KEY GOALS.

PROPOSED COURSES OF ACTION (E) AND (F) ADDRESS NEEDS OF USIS AND PEACE CORPS AND RECOMMEND INCREASED FUNDING FOR BOTH AGENCIES TO PERMIT THEM TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE. USIS SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED BY ASSIGNMENT OF SECOND AMERICAN OFFICER AND PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL PROGRAM RESOURCES. CU PROGRAM FOR GABON SHOULD BE EXPANDED TO PERMIT GREATER NUMBER OF IV AND OCA GRANTEES, STEP WHICH OFFERS EXTREMELY HIGH POTENTIAL RETURN FOR INPUT OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES. PEACE CORPS SHOULD ALSO ASSIGN SECOND AMERICAN OFFICER TO PERMIT EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF EX-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LIBREV 00792 311221Z

PENDING PROGRAM, AND SHOULD MAINTAIN NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER MAN-YEARS AT MINIMUM OF 40 THROUGHOUT FORECAST PERIOD.

PART III - STATE PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

A. REPROGRAMMING:

NO REPROGRAMMING AS DEFINED BY DEPARTMENT FOR PURPOSES OF PARA 15 IS PROJECTED. HOWEVER, FSL EMPLOYEES WILL BE UPGRADED TO MORE SENIOR RESPONSIBILITIES IN ADMIN. FUNCTION WHILE MORE ROUTINE ADMIN. SERVICES WILL BE PROCURED BY NON-PERSONAL SERVICE CONTRACTS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE EMBASSY IS ACTIVELY SEEKING A QUALIFIED GSO IN THE FSLS CATEGORY.

B. INCREASES/DECREASES:

1) NO INCREASES PLANNED FOR FY 79. THE SECOND AMER. OFF. SHOWN IN ECON/COM HAS ALREADY BEEN APPROVED

BY DEPARTMENT AND ARRIVES AT POST LAST QUARTER OF FY 77.

C. LOWER PRIORITY POSITIONS

NO SUBMISSION REQUIRED - ONLY 8/9 AMERICAN POSITIONS
IN LIBREVILLE.

D. MISSION STAFFING CHARTS

CURRENT FY 77

AGENCY/FUNCTION AMER OFFS. AMER. STAFF FSL PROFES. FSL STAFF.

1. STATE

EXECUTIVE	2	2	-	-
POLITICAL	-	-	-	-
ECON/COM	1	-	1	-
CONSULAR	-	-	1	-
ADMIN(ALL CORE)	1	-	3	11
COMM. (ALL CORE)	-	2	-	1
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PAGE 04 LIBREV 00792 311221Z

SEC. (ALL CORE)	-	6	-	1
REG. OFF.	-	-	-	-

2. OTHER AGENCIES

USIS	1	-	2	6
PC:STAFF	1	-	1	1
VOLS.	-	40	-	-

PROJECTED FY 79

AGENCY/FUNCTION AMER OFFS. AMER. STAFF FSL PROFES. FSL STAFF

1. STATE

EXECUTIVE	2	2	-	-
POLITICAL	-	-	-	-
ECON/COM	2	-	1	-
CONSULAR	-	-	1	-
ADMIN. (ALL CORE)	1	-	4	9
COMM. (ALL CORE)	-	2	-	2
SEC.	-	6	-	1
REG. OFF.	-	-	-	-

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